DC BLACK LABEL

SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

BATMAN™

CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK EIGHT

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK EIGHT

VROOM

WE HAVE VISUAL ON *AZRAEL!*

HE'S ON THE *ROOFTOPS* WEST OF THE PARK, RIGHT ALONG THE HIGHWAY!

I BET HE'S HEADED TO THE AIRPORT NEAR THE COAST GUARD STATION.

HE'S GOTTA COME DOWN FROM THE ROOFTOPS AT SOME POINT!

BRUCE, STAY BEHIND THE OTHERS IN CASE AZRAEL DOUBLES BACK.

...

BRUCE-- *YOU* THERE?

WHUD

HE JUST LANDED! *I'VE GOT HIM--*

BOOP

VVVVVVVVVVVV PKK PKK PKK

WAIT, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY CAR!

MINE TOO! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

NIGHTWING

DAMMIT!

NOT THIS SHIT AGAIN!

FWOOSH

WHAT HAPPENED?

HE TAMPERED WITH OUR CARS. ADDED SOME KIND OF *SHUT-OFF DEVICE.*

HE WAS ONLY *USING US* TO HELP FIND AZRAEL!

COMMISSIONER-- WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM--

REMOTE DISRUPTER. *I KNEW IT!*

WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

SNAP

BA-VROOM

BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT US STOPPING HIM...

"...FROM KILLING AZRAEL."

FWOOSH

TELEPHONE

VVvvvvTT!!

BRATTA RATTA

RATTA

TING

TING

TING

BOAT HOOK TURBO

BEEP

TOING!

POKK

KLANG

SCREEE

FWOOSH

IIIIRT

CRASH

FWOOSH

VROOOOM

NICE TRY, BRUCE.

SHIFT

VROOOOM

WOOSH

GOTHAM AIRPO
REPAIR HANG
CLOSED

BOOM

I THOUGHT BATMAN *DIDN'T KILL.*

ISN'T THAT WHAT MAKES US *DIFFERENT?*

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

THOKK

HUKK

WELL IF YOU'RE NO LONGER BATMAN, AND YOU'RE NO LONGER A WAYNE, THEN *WHO ARE YOU?*

I'M YOUR RECKONING.

NO. I KNOW WHAT YOU *REALLY ARE,* BRUCE...

YOU TRAVELED THE WORLD SEEKING SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF--SOMETHING THAT WOULD REPAIR YOU, BRING YOU PEACE.

BUT YOU LEARNED THAT THERE IS NO *PEACE* FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU--ONLY *WAR.* AND AS YOU LOOK BACK AT THE BLOOD IN YOUR WAKE, YOU REALIZE YOU'VE BECOME TOO ACCEPTING OF YOUR DEMONS--*THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR SOUL.*

SO YOU TRIED TO SAVE YOURSELF BY REACHING OUT TO THOSE AROUND YOU, BUT THEY COULDN'T SAVE YOU EITHER. BECAUSE *YOUR* WAR HAD BECOME *THEIR* WAR.

NOW HERE YOU ARE, ALL ALONE, TRYING TO BE A MARTYR...

...IN A BATTLE THAT KILLED YOU A LONG TIME AGO.

I KNOW YOU, BRUCE.

...GO TO HELL...

YOU'RE ME.

WE'RE BROTHERS, LIKE CAIN AND ABEL. NOT BOUND BY BLOOD, ***BUT BY DESTINY.***

GOD PUT US ON DIFFERENT PATHS, BUT WE ENDED UP IN THE SAME PLACE, DIDN'T WE?

إرادة الله

THE CITY WILL FIGHT YOU. ***EVEN AFTER I'M GONE.***

THERE WON'T BE A CITY LEFT. NOT AFTER THE ***FLOOD...***

CRASH!

BOOM

ALL UNITS REPORT TO THE ABANDONED AIRPORT DEPOT.

GRAYSON--YOU STILL HAVE EYES ON AZRAEL?

NEGATIVE.

BUT HE CAN'T BE FAR--I HIT HIM PRETTY HARD.

:HRRNNF:

BRUCE... IS THAT A ***GUN?***

GODDAMN IT--WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ***THIS ISN'T YOU!***

AZRAEL NEEDS TO DIE. FOR WHAT HE'S DONE, FOR WHAT HE STANDS FOR.

AND WHAT IF IT KILLS YOU?!

MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT GOTHAM REALLY NEEDS--***A CLEAN SLATE.***

JESUS, YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED ***ANYTHING***, HAVE YOU?! AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, ***NOTHING'S CHANGED!***

GORDON IS DEAD. BARBARA BARELY SURVIVED. AZRAEL IS RIGHT--***I BROUGHT THIS WAR UPON YOU.***

SO IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE? BRINGING US INTO THIS? BARBARA, JASON, GORDON--

YES.

THEN WHY DID YOU DO IT, BRUCE?

DO WHAT?

WHY ADOPT ME IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I'VE RUINED YOUR LIFE, DICK.

YOU ***SAVED*** ME!

I TRIED TO SAVE YOU AND I ***FAILED***-- BECAUSE I'M NOT MUCH OF A ***FATHER.***

MAYBE NOT...

...BUT YOU'RE *MY* FATHER.

AND I STILL *BELIEVE IN YOU.*

DON'T END IT THIS WAY--DON'T MAKE ME WATCH YOU--

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SMART ENOUGH TO SEE MY FLAWS, DICK. MAYBE THAT'S WHY THERE'S BEEN A WEDGE BETWEEN US-- BECAUSE *WE BOTH KNOW WHO THE BETTER MAN IS.*

NOW STEP ASIDE AND LET ME *END THIS.*

FINE, BUT END IT *YOUR WAY.*

NOT AS AZRAEL...

...*AS BATMAN.*

GRAYSON, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

SEND UNITS TO THE DAM AT GOTHAM RESERVOIR.

THE RESERVOIR?

AZRAEL IS GOING TO TRY TO DESTROY IT.

NO TIME FOR EVACUATION--GET PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS AND INTO THE BUILDINGS.

HOLY BIBLICAL FLOOD, BATMAN.

COMMISSIONER, CALL THE NATIONAL GUARD--

VROOM

THAT WAS GCPD.

ABOUT TIME.

AZRAEL MIGHT BE ON THE BASE. NOTIFY YOUR MEN AND START SWEEPING THE AREA.

GET THE HELO INTO THE AIR--HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE ***RESERVOIR.*** I'LL STIR UP MORE SUPPORT.

ON IT.

COMMANDER--PUT GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL ON LOCKDOWN!

CLICK

U.S. COAST GUARD

:GASP:

JESUS CHRIST.

BREAKING

THREAT TO GOTHAM RESERVOIR. CITYWIDE FLOOD?

HE'S GOING TO FLOOD GOTHAM?

OH MY GOD...

RUMBLE RUMBLE

FWOOOSH

...

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT HIM BEATING AZRAEL...

DON'T WORRY, BRUCE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY.

"...I'M WORRIED WHAT IT MIGHT ***COST HIM*** IN ORDER TO DO IT.

"HE'S LOST ***EVERYTHING***: HIS HOME, HIS INHERITANCE, THE HONOR OF HIS FAMILY LEGACY. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING AZRAEL HASN'T TAKEN FROM HIM: ***HIS SOUL.***

"THAT'S THE ONLY THING KEEPING BRUCE FROM FALLING INTO THE ***ABYSS.*** I JUST HOPE HE CAN SAVE HIMSELF...

"...BY REMEMBERING ***WHO HE REALLY IS.***"

I MIGHT NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTAND BATMAN...

...BUT I KNOW HE'S ***NOTHING*** WITHOUT THE MAN INSIDE OF HIM.

THAT ***COMMITMENT TO OTHERS*** RUNS DEEP IN YOUR BLOOD. THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU A ***WAYNE.***

SO DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU OTHERWISE.

IF YOU WANT TO HONOR YOUR PARENTS, WORK HARD TO MAKE THEM ***PROUD.***

JAMES GORDON

MY FIRST ORDER AS COMMISSIONER WAS TO INSTALL THIS SIGNAL.

YOU'RE OKAY WORKING WITH A VIGILANTE?

I KNOW YOU WON'T BE WEARING THE MASK ***FOR-EVER.***

VROOM

I BELIEVE THAT IF WE FIGHT ***HARD ENOUGH***, WE CAN MAKE GOTHAM A PLACE WHERE HEROES DON'T HAVE TO HIDE ANYMORE.

THAT'S HOW I'LL KNOW WE'VE WON--THE DAY THAT MASK ***COMES OFF.***

WOK WOK WOK

FWOOSH

WOK WOK WOK

CLICK

BOAT

HOOK

TURBO

VROOT

CHOKK

FWOOSH

VROOM

FOOSH

TWOOSH

BOOM

KRRK

CRASH

THIS SUIT HAS LASER-GUIDED BATARANGS, ADVANCED OCULAR TECH, AND SPECIALIZED R.A.Z.O.R. PLATING.

AND YOU BROUGHT *RAPIERS?*

I SAW WHAT'S CARVED INTO THE HILT OF YOUR SWORD.

IRADAT ALLAH.

IT'S ARABIC. FOR *GOD'S WILL.*

SO?

SO IF THAT SWORD IS *GOD'S* WILL, THEN IT'S *ALL YOU SHOULD NEED.*

...

WELL PLAYED, BRUCE.

MAY THE LORD SHINE BRIGHTLY ON *EACH OF US.*

CLAKK

HRRN

CLAKK

WOOSH

WHUD

I SEE YOU'VE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.

TRYING TO *DISARM* ME, RATHER THAN *KILL* ME?

IT WON'T WORK.

IF YOU DON'T DIE BY *MY HAND*...

...IT'S BECAUSE I FORCED YOU TO KILL ME!

CLANG

SHIELDS.

WHUD

CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK

CLANG

ARRRRRRRRRGH!

:HNNF:

SHUK

SHUK

TELL ME ONE LAST THING BEFORE THIS IS OVER: DO YOU THINK THEY KNEW?

WHO?

YOUR PARENTS?

DID THEY KNOW THEY WERE SWINE DRAPED IN PEARLS? LEECHES FEEDING FROM THE BLOODY TIT OF GOTHAM? FAKE ARISTOCRATS BRED FROM A ROTTEN BLOODLINE?

HACK

...GRRRGLE...

...THAT WAS MY CAROTID ARTERY.

...YOU DID IT, BRUCE...

...YOU KILLED ME.

...I...KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.

YOU'VE FINISHED WHAT *BAKKAR* STARTED...

...YOU ELIMINATED THE LAST WAYNE.

NO.

I WON'T LET YOU DIE.

...I KNEW I WOULDN'T SURVIVE, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D WIN...

...THE LORD WAS ON MY SIDE...

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

THAT'S WHY HE SPARED MY FAMILY...THAT'S WHY HE SENT US AN ANGEL...

"...THE LAST KNIGHT OF ST. DUMAS.

"HE FOUND EDMOND WAYNE'S ***DAUGHTER***--BORN TO A LOWLY PROSTITUTE AFTER HIS DEATH. TOOK HER AWAY FROM GOTHAM AND HID HER WITHIN ***THE ORDER*** TO PROTECT HER FROM THE BAKKARS.

"CHANGED HER LAST NAME TO ***VALLEY...***

...A REMINDER OF HER BIRTHRIGHT, OF ***GOTHAM VALLEY.*** HE KNEW GOD WOULD FIND A WAY TO RECTIFY THE SIN THAT CURSED THIS LAND, EVEN IF IT TOOK GENERATIONS.

BEING THE PROTECTOR OF GOTHAM IS BIGGER THAN BEING A ***WAYNE*** OR A ***BAKKAR.***

THE PRIEST KNEW THAT, WHICH IS WHY HE GAVE THE JOURNAL TO ***GOTHAM'S*** TRUE PROTECTOR...

WOK WOK WOK

...BATMAN.

GCPD
GOTHAM

:SNIFF:

DETECTIVE.
GOOD LUCK, COWL HEAD.
DUKE. YOU'D HAVE MADE A GREAT ROBIN.
HA.
COMMISSIONER.
NOT SURE WHY YOU'RE LETTING US DO THIS, BRUCE.
WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?

CB-GCPD

HARLEY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU *KNOW* WHAT I'M DOING, BATS.

I JUST LOST JACK. *I'M NOT LOSING YOU TOO.*

YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS. THINK OF YOUR KIDS, THINK OF YOUR FUTURE TOGETHER.

LOCK

NO. I CAN'T...

...I CAN'T BE ALONE.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE. YOU'RE JUST FEELING LOST.

...

BELIEVE ME, I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

HARLEY, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID FOR ME.

WITHOUT YOUR HELP, THIS WHOLE THING MIGHT HAVE ENDED VERY DIFFERENTLY.

YOU GUIDED ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS-- HELPED ME FIND A PATH TO REDEMPTION AND CHANGE GOTHAM IN WAYS I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

YOU SAVED MY SOUL.

WELL, I GUESS I WAS RETURNING THE FAVOR.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, I PROMISE.

IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.

UNLOCK

UM... EVERYTHING OKAY HERE?

EVERY-THING IS FINE.

NICE UNIFORM.

"WHILE THE TOTAL VALUE OF BRUCE WAYNE'S ASSETS HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED, MOST ARE ESTIMATING IT TO BE IN THE HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS."

"AND AS PROMISED, MR. WAYNE HAS BEGUN ***GIVING IT ALL AWAY.***

"THIS UNPRECEDENTED MOVE WILL STRIKE A MASSIVE BLOW TO THE SO-CALLED ***ELITES***, BOOST THE ***NAPIER INITIATIVE***, AND HELP THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT THE MOST--***THE LOWER AND MIDDLE CLASS.***

GOTHAM INSIDER

"OVERSEEING THE TRANSFER IS ***LUCIUS FOX***--THE CEO OF WAYNE ENTERPRISE IS RESTRUCTURING THE COMPANY AND MANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES INTO NONPROFIT CHARITIES DESIGNED TO INFUSE THE CITY WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

"A LARGE PORTION OF THE MONEY HAS ALSO BEEN DONATED TO THE GCPD WHERE IT'LL BE USED TO GIVE THE POLICE SOME BADLY NEEDED UPGRADES, INCLUDING A FLEET OF SPECIALIZED VEHICLES UNOFFICIALLY CALLED ***BATMOBILES.***

"THEY'RE ALSO PLANNING TO REBUILD AND EXPAND THE GTO. NEWLY PROMOTED ***SERGEANT BULLOCK*** HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO RECRUIT ***EVEN MORE VIGILANTES*** IN THE COMING MONTHS.

"WHILE MOST OF GOTHAM SEEMS VERY PLEASED WITH MR. WAYNE'S DECISION, HE'S NOT WITHOUT HIS CRITICS.

"SOME ARE ACCUSING WAYNE OF ***SOCIALISM*** AND OF ***MILITARIZING THE POLICE***, WHILE OTHERS DON'T THINK HIS DONATIONS ***GO FAR ENOUGH.***

"AND OTHERS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME BELIEVING HE WAS EVER REALLY THE VIGILANTE ***IN THE FIRST PLACE.***

"BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT UNITES US, ONE THING WE'RE ALL FEELING: ***THE LOSS OF BATMAN.***

"WHATEVER OPINION YOU MIGHT HAVE OF THE ***DARK KNIGHT***, HE'S BEEN A HUGE PART OF GOTHAM'S IDENTITY.

"WITHOUT BATMAN, WHAT KIND OF CITY WILL GOTHAM BE? THAT'S THE QUESTION WE'LL BE ASKING OURSELVES A LOT IN THE COMING MONTHS...

"...AS WE BEGIN ***THE TRIAL OF BRUCE WAYNE.***"

WHY AM I HERE, BRUCE?

MONTOYA NEEDED SOMEONE TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME, SOMEONE WHO KNOWS MY TRICKS AND CAN STOP ME FROM ESCAPING. SO I HAD HER TRACK YOU DOWN--

NO CELL CAN HOLD YOU, BRUCE. ***WE BOTH KNOW THAT.***

YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU INTEND ON STAYING HERE?

THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER REASON.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE IS...

I WANT TO TALK.

TODD

THE END

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AndWorld Design: Letters

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

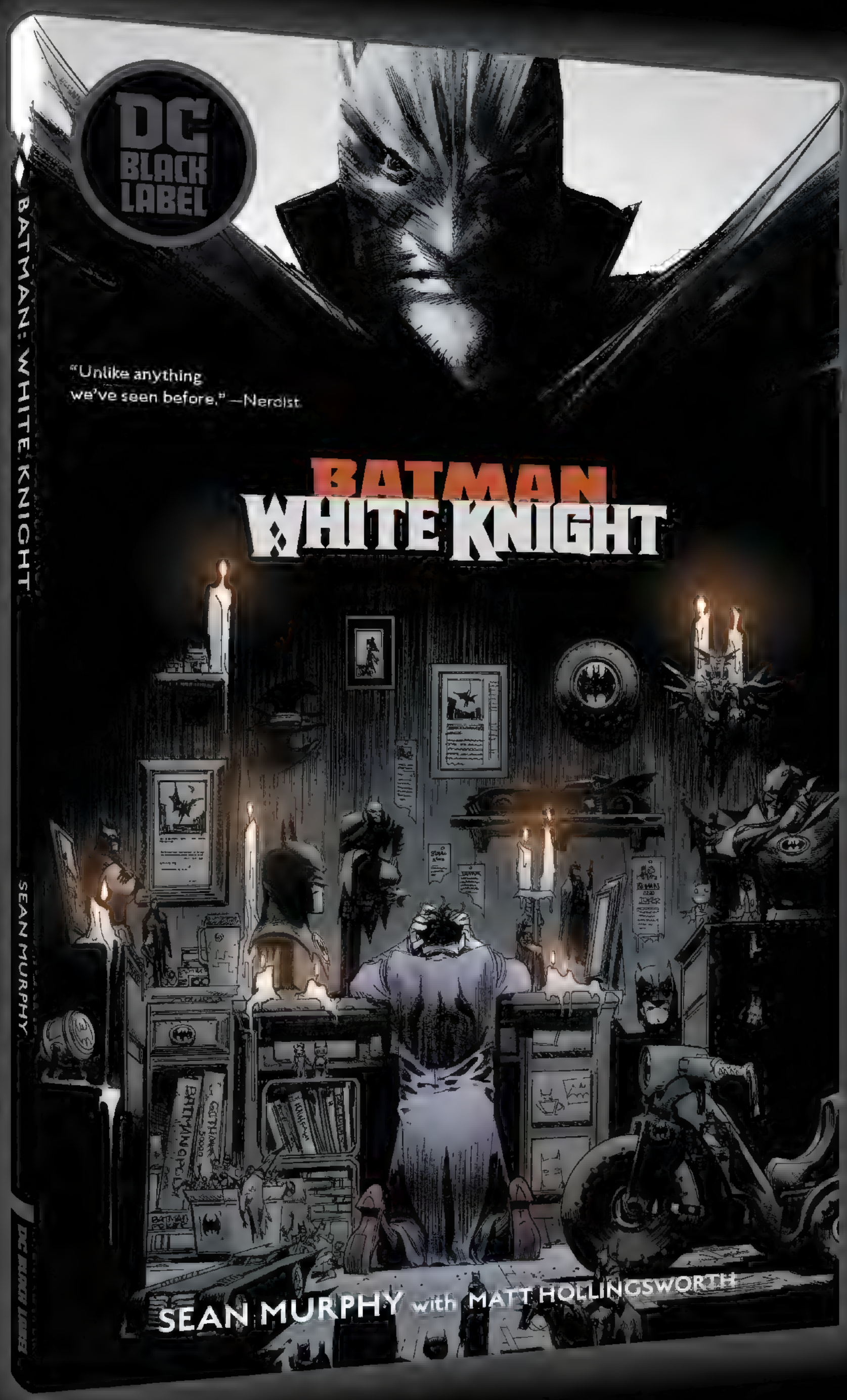
BOOK EIGHT

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

DC BLACK LABEL



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A CURSE, A BIRTHRIGHT,
AND CENTURIES OF LIES...

THE JOKER IS BACK WITH
A DEVASTATING SECRET
TO SHAKE BATMAN AND
GOTHAM TO THE CORE!

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